

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are currently pending. By the Office Action of August 12, 2005, claims 1, 16, 18-22, 25, 31, 36, and 38-40 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 18 were canceled. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 8, 14, 23, 29, 33, 37 and 42 would be allowable if they are rewritten to include the elements of the base claims.

Claims 1, 16, 18-22, 25, 31, 36, and 38 – 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshino et al. for the reasons given in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Claims 3 – 7 and 9 – 13, 15, 17, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 is unpatentable over Yoshino in view of Pulfrey for the reasons stated in paragraphs 2 to 7 of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections. However, to place the application in condition for allowance, the claims have been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable, namely, claims 1, 16 and 31 have been rewritten to include the elements of claims 2, 23 and 33, respectively. Claims 23 and 37 have been rewritten to include the elements of their respective base claims. New claim 43 is a combination of the elements of claims 1, 3 and 8, and new claim 44 is claim 42 rewritten to include essentially the elements of claims 31 and 36.

It is believed that the application, including the above independent claims and their respective dependent claims, is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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